

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5

Date:

Subject: Approval of an Aquifer Exemption in Indiana

From: Jo Lynn Traub
Director, Water Division

To: Valdas V. Adamkus
Regional Administrator

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has requested that Region 5 approve an aquifer exemption for a well which will inject water brought to the surface along with gas being withdrawn from the Brookston Storage Field in White County, Indiana. This field is operated by Indiana Gas Company, Inc. In order to dispose of the brine, the operator wants to convert an existing gas input/withdrawal well to an injection well and inject produced brine back into the formation from which it came. The well cannot be converted until an aquifer exemption has been granted.

My staff has reviewed this request, and recommend that the aquifer exemption be approved because the exemption meets the requirements in 40 CFR 146.4. The aquifer exemption is limited to the area in a circle of one-quarter mile radius centered on the #43983 well (IDNR Permit Number). This aquifer is not expected to serve as a source of drinking water because it has a salinity which is too high for human consumption without treatment and there is a source of abundant, high quality water overlying the reservoir for which the exemption is proposed. Further details are included in the attached aquifer exemption summary sheet.

We recommend that you sign the attached letter to the Director of the IDNR, approving the incorporation of the aquifer exemption into the approved primacy program. If you would like further information, please contact either Harlan Gerrish or John Taylor at 886-2939 or 353-4153, respectively.

Attachment

bcc: Gerrish
Taylor

WU-17J::H:12/17/96.Gerrish:hg: Indiana disk. \CHALMERS\EXEMPT.TRN